GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1814
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
BANK BRANCHES IN GUJARAT
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several branches of various banks in Gujarat are not able to conduct their daily business especially after earthquake and recent riots; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to deploy additional staff to restore normalcy in these banks ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE)

(a) : According to the information furnished by the Dena Bank, Convenor of StateLevel Banker`s Committee for the State of Gujarat, due to earthquake on 26th January, 2001, 148 branches of various Banks in Gujarat State were heavily/ partially damaged. Banks took immediate steps to restore the functioning of the Branches by removing debris and retrieving the records shifting the premises to alternative places etc. By 17th February, 2001, all the Branches in the State were made functioning.

Due to recent riots, no bank branch is reported to be heavily damaged. However, due to curfew, several branches remained closed on account of tense position in certain places of the State. Under uncertain circumstances (of normalcy) many branches functioned partially also. Reserve Bank of India was closely monitoring this area of operation and various remedial measures like temporary shifting to non-riot area were also made by the banks.

(b) : As regards earthquake, Banks have deployed additional staff from other centers to Kutch for restoring the immediate functioning of the Banks and to assist the branches in opening of about five lakhs Savings Bank Accounts of earthquake victims as the relief amount was to be channalised through Bank accounts. In case of riots also, wherever additional staff was required, it was deployed. Besides, arrangements for curfew passes were also made.